

Executive Board

Network Update 05/16/2016

The Legislative Branch is the proud owner of its own network infrastructure. The LRC IT team has completed the transition from the State of South Dakota's network infrastructure to its own Legislative Branch managed network infrastructure. The transition started on April 29th and was completed May 1st.

Prior to saying anything further I want to acknowledge the fact that none of this would have been possible without the dedication, commitment and hard work of Hilary Carruthers and Kevin Kumpf. We had 3 intense days of hard work. When I say days I don't mean 8 hour days I am saying 20 hour days. There was a lot of work accomplished in those 3 days and for a team of 3 to have accomplished it, most people would not have believed it possible. So again, please recognize the awesome staff you have in Hilary Carruthers and Kevin Kumpf.

Items of interest.

- We are currently setting up a redundant cloud based SQL server and an IIS (Web) server instance for additional website redundancy.
- We will be implementing a load balancer to ensure that the website is always up and running.
- We are working on bringing the full text search capability back online.
- SDLEGISLATURE email is up and running almost as planned. There is a slight issue with imported address books. Some @state.sd.us contacts in the address books are retaining incorrect delivery information. The solution is to delete the email address in the contact and re-enter it.
- Migrated data that staff needs for daily work duties is online. We have had some issues with data permissions that did not change on the imported data but we are dealing with them as they are reported.
- Backup/Recovery storage is being provisioned in the cloud for a secondary offsite backup data location. We will be migrating it from its current location to the Microsoft AZURE Government Cloud.
- I have been working with BIT on our access to state systems that we will continue to need to access, such as payroll, and accounting. This portion of the project is a 75% success and 75% complete. I have been working with BIT to resolve the remaining issues and believe we will have them worked out within the week. We have currently processed our 3rd payroll on the new network and staff has completed one time keeping cycle on the new network.
- I have some loose ends to wrap up that I anticipate taking me about 30 - 45 days to get completed. Since I have other ongoing duties and responsibilities to keep up with, these loose ends will take as long as stated.
- I still have about 75% of the printers to configure. We have LRC office printers online and functional but the printers throughout the remainder of 3rd and 4th floors will need to be finalized.
- The old servers and data shares on the BIT system have been decommissioned.
- Email accounts on the BIT email system have been turned off for access but will continue to forward. Duration of forwarding to be determined at a future meeting with BIT, Director Hancock, and myself.
- 90% of the old network equipment has been removed and delivered to BIT. BIT will do a device reset to remove any existing configuration data and then return the equipment to us to use as spares.
- I am putting together project pricing to provide network access to the LRC network in the cafeteria.

In my opinion the transition was a success. We have had minor obstacles but none that were not to be expected in a transition of this magnitude. Now the fun part is to monitor, maintain, and improve what we have in order to make it better and to better meet the needs of the Legislative Branch and staff.

Brian DeBolt
Legislative Research Council
Network Administrator